To the General Assembly of the State of Maryland the Humble Petition of ~~[illegible]~~, Thomas Pollitt & Wm Pollitt ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~humbly~~ sheweth — That it is with the deepest and most poignant Concern, ~~that~~ we discover ourselves pointed out as Exceptions to the Proclamation issued the 13th Feby. 1777 by the general Assembly of Maryland particularly relative to the Inhabitants of Somerset & Worcester Counties. — Notwithstanding our obscure Situation in Life, we sensibly feel and are fully impressed with the Idea of that Ignominy with which our Characters are stained by being distinguished as Enemies to our Country, and it is an Additional aggravation to our Misfortunes when we reflect that our Offspring to the latest Generations will be upbraided with their Fathers Offences — With Shame and Contrition we acknowledge that we have been deceived and misled by the Malitious and artfull Insinuations of Men whose designing Views we were incapable of detecting, and to whose ruinous Schemes our Ignorance and Credulity rendered us an easy Prey. — It has been our ~~[illegible]~~ peculiar ~~Misfortune~~ unhappiness to live in a remote Corner of this State from our Infancy, our Wishes were limited by the Bounds of our small Farms, nor has our situation in Life been such as to afford us Opportunities of Improvement from an Intercourse with the more intelligent and superior Ranks of Mankind — All the Crimes which have occasioned the Legislature justly to proscribe us are such as are not to be thought of without Horror we in some Measure consider them as a Dispensation of Providence to warn us of our impending Ruin; and had we not been roused to a Sense of ~~of~~ the Duty we owe to our Country our friends and engaged in the great Cause of Liberty we might have persevered in pernicious Error. However improbable it may be thought that we should so quickly change our Sentiments yet before God and the World we solemnly declare that we are sensible of our improper and inimical Conduct, ~~[illegible]~~ ~~to larger dwellings and fisheries in the Eastern Parts from bleeding Country~~ — That we are neither men of Influence or Importance in the County of our Residence, and that it is not to be expressed from our Stamp or Character that we would engage in public Matters from any other Motive than rational Impulse as many Gentlemen of our Acquaintance in Somerset & Worcester can aport. We therefore wish and pray that the General Assembly would be pleased to consider our Case and exercise Justice & Mercy ———